

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWING**

The replacement sheets appended hereto corrects certain labeling errors as follows:

FIG. 1 labeling of the hopper guides 60 has been corrected and labeling of the spreader support elements 54 added.

FIG. 4 labeling of the hopper guide 60, the spreader 52 and the spreader support elements 54 have been added.

**REMARKS**

The foregoing amendments are submitted in response to the first Office action in an effort to place the application in condition for allowance as hereinafter pointed out.

Applicants herein respectfully submit a complete set of replacement drawing sheets (sheets 1-2) which replace all of the original drawings.

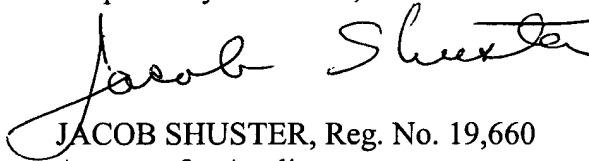
Claim 1 as amended now specifies: "a wheeled conveyor moved to a position at said dockside location; roller track means mounted on the wheeled conveyor for establishing thereon a central passage lane along which movement of the containers is effected between a pair of end passage lanes in spaced relation to the central passage lane". The foregoing quoted recitations of amended claim 1 relate to the disclosure of the wheeled conveyor 10 on which a central passage lane is established by a roller track section 30 on a crane unit 24 of the conveyor 10 laterally spaced between a pair of end passage lanes within end crane units 22 and 26 of the conveyor 10 that are accessible to entry of the vehicle truck 50 with the container 12 thereon as shown in FIG. 3 of the drawing. Accordingly, amended claim 1 avoids the objections under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph, as stated on page 2 paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Office action.

Claim 2 as amended specifies: "said wheeled conveyor comprises: a central crane unit--opposite end crane units on which said container spreader means is mounted;". The latter quoted recitation of "container spreader means" refers to its mounting on the wheeled conveyor--" as now set forth in amended parent claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph, as stated on page 2 paragraph 3 of the Office action, is in order.

Claims 1-7 were rejected over publication WO 00/71452A1 (Dobner) dated November 30, 2000 as the primary prior art reference relied on as stated on pages 3 and 4 of the Office action. On page 4 of the Office action it is expressly conceded that such prior art reference "does not disclose a method to transfer containers" contrary to other allegations regarding the disclosure in such prior art reference. It is clear that such prior art reference fails to disclose a wheeled conveyor through which a central crane unit with a common track passage lane is positioned at a dockside location between two other passage lanes on opposite sides thereof for transfer of containers between the three passage lanes by guided displacement, to which amended claims 1-7 are limited. Furthermore there are statements set forth on pages 3 and 4 of the Office action, in regard to the disclosure in the prior art reference relied on, that are confusingly inconsistent with each other. Thus, a "wheeled conveyor means 7" and "--passage lanes 7--" are referred to, while on page 4 of the Office action "passage lane 24" is referred to both as (1) "a common track passage lane 24" and as (2) one of "two parallel lanes --24".

In view of the foregoing, an allowance of claims 1-7 as amended is believed to be in order and is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JACOB SHUSTER, Reg. No. 19,660  
Attorney for Applicants

Tele: (301) 227-1835  
OFFICE OF COUNSEL, CODE 004  
NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER  
CARDEROCK DIVISION  
DAVID TAYLOR MODEL BASIN  
9500 MACARTHUR BLVD  
WEST BETHESDA, MD 20817